GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5141
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2002
REPAYMENT OF FOREIGN LOAN
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the country`s external debt;

(b) whether the Government propose to repay a part of the external debt amounting the $ 100 billion out of the foreign exchange reserve; and

(c) if so, the amount of external debt proposed to be repaid during the financial year 2002-2003?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL)

(a) India`s outstanding external debt was US $ 100.38 billion at end of September 2001.

(b) and (c) Government of India have constituted an Ad-hoc Groupcomprising officials of Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India to analyse the issues of prepayment of costly external debt and prepayment of selected expensive external debt is under consideration of the Government. However, prepayment proposals of some PSUs, inrespect of their multilateral loans, have been cleared as per the guidelines outlined by the Ad-hoc Group.